(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Divisional Office is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Government has decided to set up a new divisions including one at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. An officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) has been positioned at Ahmedabad for smooth setting up of the proposed new division.

(b) and (c) No. Sir.

(d) The time frame can be decided after availability of suitable land and finalisation of territorial jurisdiction.

Replacement of 150 ml cups by smaller cups in South Central Railway

410. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half a million disposable cups of standard size of 150 ml each procured by the South Central Railway were surreptitiously replaced by smaller cups, thus depriving the passengers of lakhs of ruppes every day on the sale of tea and coffee to them;

(b) the extent of loss suffered by the Railways on account of this scandal and the estimated loss per day suffered by the travelling public due to short supply of tea and coffee; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the culpnts in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Instances of some vendors selling coffee/tea in sub standard cups at stations and on trains have come to notice. Such vendors were fined and the sub-standard cups were seized and detroyed. Frequent checks are being conducted to prevent use of sub-standard cups by the vendors. Extent of loss cannot be estimated.

Setting up of New Division of Western Railway at Ahmedabad

411. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has announced for opening up a 'New Division of Western Railway at Ahmedabad previously';

(b) whether nothing has been initiated by Government for opening the Division by way of creating construction of building and creating of other infrastructure there;

(c) whether there is any rethinking on the part of the present Government on this subject; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Government has decided to set up 8 new divisions including one at Ahmedabad.

(b) The inaugural function of Ahmedabad division was held on 10.3.96. An Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) has been positioned at Ahmedabad for smooth setting up of the proposed new division. The issue regarding acquisition of adequate land in a convenient location from the State Government of Gujarat is being actively pursued.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The time frame can be decided after availability of suitable land and finalisation of territorial jurisdiction.

Modernisation of Indian Railways

412. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government propose to allow private participation in modernisation and technological upgradation of the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railway (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A statement is attached *[See* Appendix *184* Annexue No. *14]*